

REMARKS

This amendment is offered in reply to the office action of March 7, 2006. A petition and fee for a three (3) month time extension are enclosed, making this response due on September 7, 2006.

On page 2 of the office action, claims 1-5 and 19-21 are rejected under 35 USC 102(b) as anticipated by Robinson article.

This rejection is believed to be in error. For example, the Robinson article describes a "corona or electric wind" electrostatic blower wherein a static electric field is established between one or more pairs of emitting and collecting electrodes. However, each pair of the emitting and collecting electrodes both attempts to generate ions and an electric field to move the ions, resulting in low conversion efficiency of the device.

The Robinson article does not disclose Applicants' gaseous fluid pumping device of pending claims 1-4 including an ion generating region having an electron-emitting cathode electrode for generating unipolar ions in the fluid and further having a separate pumping region disposed downstream of the ion generating region wherein the pumping region includes pumping electrodes for generating an electric field in a manner that imparts motion to the ions and thus to the fluid.

With respect to claim 3, the Robinson article does not disclose an ion generating region having an electron-emitting cathode and an anode, and further having a pumping region with pumping electrodes.

Moreover, the Robinson article also does not disclose Applicants' pumping device of claim 5 having a pumping region with a series of pumping electrode sets whose polarity is switched in a manner to generate an electric field that imparts motion to the unipolar ions and thus the fluid in the direction.

Applicants' claims 19-21 are not disclosed by the Robinson article. The Robinson article does not disclose a gaseous fluid pump comprising a series of pumping electrodes (claim 19) or first and second electrodes (claim 21) disposed along a fluid flow path and whose polarity is switched in a manner for generating an electric field in a manner that imparts motion to unipolar ions present in the gaseous fluid and thus to the fluid in the direction of the flow path.

As mentioned above, the Robinson article describes a "corona or electric wind" electrostatic blower wherein a static electric field is established between one or more pairs of emitting and collecting electrodes.

Applicants request reconsideration of the Section 102 rejection of claims 1-5 and 19-21.

On page 5 of the office action, claims 6-8 are rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as obvious in view of the above-discussed Robinson article taken with the Kalman et al. article.

The gross deficiencies of the Robinson article are discussed above.

The Kalman et al article likewise is deficient in that it too involves a "corona or electric wind" electro-static blower wherein a static electric field is established between one or more pairs of emitting and collecting electrodes.

The Kalman et al. article thus adds nothing to correct the gross deficiencies of the Robinson article. The combination of the Robinson article and the Kalman et al. articles as proposed by the examiner still yields a "corona or electric wind" electro-static blower.

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Applicants' claims 6-8 thus are not rendered obvious by the Robinson article and the Kalman et al. article. Moreover, claims 7 and 8 recite pumping electrodes residing on one or more heat transfer surfaces in a manner not disclosed or rendered obvious by the cited articles. Applicants note that the Kalman et al. article merely describes a nickel-steel wire electrode disposed above the heated aluminum plate and earthed (grounded) brass wings also disposed above the heated aluminum plate.

Applicants request reconsideration of the Section 103 rejection of claims 6-8.

Applicants have added new claim 22, which is believed to be allowable also. The Commissioner is authorized to charge the fee for new claim 22 to my deposit account NO. 20-1124.

Applicants believe the pending claims are in allowable condition, and action to that end is requested.

Respectfully submitted,



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CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service under 37 CFR 1.8 as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner For Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on September 6, 2006.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Edward J. Timmer".

Edward J. Timmer